

Medicare to pay for a tax cut for the wealthy will cost seniors \$1,000 more a year and will mean that they will lose their choice of doctors. Amazingly, Republicans now say they are only following the Medicare trustees instructions and trying to save the program from insolvency.

But, yesterday, the Medicare trustees, themselves, spoke out on the Republican plan. In an editorial published in the Los Angeles Times, the trustees called the Republican Medicare cuts excessive and said those cuts would seriously hurt seniors.

And, contrary to Republican claims, the Medicare trustees say that the trust fund is not in a sudden crisis, but has actually improved over the past few years. As the trustees said yesterday: "The only thing that has really changed is the political needs of those who are hoping to use major Medicare cuts for other purposes." As we know, those other purposes are tax cuts for the wealthy.

LIMITATION OF TIME FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2126, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that further consideration of the bill H.R. 2126 in the Committee of the Whole pursuant to House Resolution 205 continue for a period not to exceed 5 hours—excluding time consumed by recorded votes and proceedings incidental thereto.

The Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HOBSON). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

SUPPORT THE B-2

(Mr. SALMON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning in strong support of the B-2 stealth bomber, and in strong opposition to the Dellums/Kasich amendment to be offered later today to eliminate funding for future bombers.

In today's uncertain world, we will be lucky to have a day's warning before a conflict erupts. With our forward presence constantly shrinking, the B-2 provides us with the ability to rapidly project power deep within well-protected enemy territory.

Further, while the premium on surprise and quick strike ability is increasing, the premium placed on the lives of our service men and women remains paramount. With stealth and precision-guided munitions, one B-2 with a crew of two is as effective as 75 conventional aircraft which place 132 air crew at risk. And the B-2 can do this without being staged on the dangerous front lines of a conflict.

The options that the B-2 provides are vital to the future of our Nation's power projection capabilities. It is currently the only bomber in production,

and the only one planned. If the Dellums/Kasich amendment passes later today, we will lose these capabilities along with the ability to rapidly produce them in the future. If this amendment passes, by the year 2030, we will be sending our pilots into combat in 70 year old B-52's. This would be the same as sending our fighter pilots into Desert Storm in wooden and cloth biplanes.

And, the B-2 fits under the budget cap that was approved in the House earlier this year.

I urge a "no" vote on the Dellums-Kasich amendment when it is offered later today. Please join me in voting to maintain our nation's critical power projection capabilities.

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, illegal immigration is at an all-time high: 4 million illegal immigrants in America. A study now shows that many of them actually end up with food stamps, free health care, free education, free housing, while the Congress of the United States continues to cut money for American citizens. Unbelievable.

I say, ladies and gentlemen, it is time to put American military troops on our border. They are falling out of chairs without arm rests overseas and we have got millions of illegal immigrants, many of them running over our borders with back packs full of cocaine and heroin. Beam me up. Whoever created this immigration policy is in fact smoking dope.

THE B-52 BOMBER

(Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, President Reagan said, "If we are forced to fight, we must have the means and the determination to prevail or we will not have what it takes to secure the peace." This then, is the B-2 Bomber's reason for existence.

The chairman and members of the National Security Committee have clearly supported the B-2. Numerous studies indicate that the United States will require more than 20 B-2 bombers to support the U.S. national military strategy and that makes the B-2 a critical part of our war fighting arsenal and will play a unique role in each and every air and land battle that lies ahead.

The aging fleet of B-52 and B-1 bombers will see their performance decline in the next 5 to 10 years and can never perform the stealth mission of the B-2. In fact, there are no new bombers on the drawing board for the next 20 years. Bottomline: The B-2 is an installment on Congress' promise to revitalize our national security posture.

I challenge each of you to think about the direction of this world. The notion that we are safe—or war is less likely—should be dismissed. The reality is their names may have changed but they are still there—ballistic missiles, chemical weapons, and nuclear weapons. We must have the ability to counter that threat. The time is now—I urge your vote of support for the B-2.

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ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS ON THE MAJORITY'S HIT LIST

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, next Monday I will visit an elementary school, Franklin Elementary School, which is in my district in Houston. This is a school which demonstrates the need for a Federal role in education.

The schools in my district are not wealthy. They rely on Federal education dollars to supplement the State and local funding that they receive. Because of the funding problems that are all too common around the country, not just in Texas, the State and local money just is not enough to provide these children the education, the facilities, and resources these children deserve.

And yet, these kids, their parents, and their teachers kept plugging away. In 1994, the percentage of the students passing a State exam was 35 to 59 percent. In 1995, the percentage rose to 75 to 89 percent. How did this happen? With a dedicated principal, hard-working teachers, involved parents, and extra work on Saturdays, the students did it.

This is an inner-city school that receives chapter I funds. This is a school in which 98 percent of the students receive subsidized breakfast or lunch. In response to their commitment and success, the majority is cutting their funding. And I would like to say: "Welcome back, kids. Along with the seniors, you are on the majority's hit list."

AMERICA MUST PLAN FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

(Mr. SCARBOROUGH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, I have been hearing a lot about Medicare and the B-2 bomber. Actually, the two are related, because it seems that some Members continue to stick their head in the sand and deny basic facts.

First of all, if we do nothing on Medicare, in 7 years the trustees say that Medicare goes bankrupt. Something has to be done. We cannot ignore it. We have to face the 21st century with the facts.